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children delight in overcoming difficulties when they get something that they want in return; this compensation for their efforts is thought which has a value for them, which meets their present needs.

This is not a book for the teacher who is looking for cut and dried plans and methods; but the teacher who desires a deeper insight into the problem of teaching reading, that she may work out her own methods in accordance with fundamental principles, will find it full of stimulating thoughts.

An appendix of nearly sixty pages gives representative material for reading in the different grades. At the end of each chapter is a valuable summary of principles. An index would have made the book more usable.

B. F. ARMITAGE

Rome: Its Rise and Fall. A Text-Book for High Schools and Colleges. By PHILIP VAN NESS MYERS, L.H.D. Boston: Ginn & Co., 1900. Pp. xii + 554.

IT is too late in the day to call attention to the appearance of this volume. Already, doubtless, it is in use in many schools. The popularity of the historical text-books previously put forth by the author commends it in advance. And, indeed, it possesses all the qualities which have characterized the long series of Mr. Myer's works — some qualities which are admirable and others not altogether above criticism. It is copiously illustrated. It has nearly a score of maps and plans, and half as many tables and summaries. The table of contents, with its four main divisions, shows that the author has a notion of the grouping of the events into larger wholes. He does not dribble his material through an interminable series of chapters, monotonously similar in length and significance, as do Shuckburgh, and How and Leigh, and even Botsford, in his otherwise excellent history. His selection of material and style of presentation reveal the practiced hands of a master in the production of schoolbooks which have the excellent recommendation that they interest pupils.

But what avail all these excellencies if the author has no first-hand knowledge of his subject, and shows that he is unfamiliar with recent investigation? The preface of Mr. Myers' book gives us a little uneasiness when we read how he is indebted as well to Leighton as to Mommsen. An examination of the text increases this feeling. The treatment in general is altogether superficial and traditional. At critical points the grasp of problems is feeble. In narrative and expository details there is much exasperating inaccuracy. The general inferences and conclusions are usually wrong. This is especially striking in his chapters on the empire. The author's idea about the work of Augustus is that by him "the monarchy abolished five hundred years before this had been restored." He exploits the old notion that emperors like Tiberius and Domitian were little more than abandoned wretches. Of the former he says, "his name lives in history as the synonym of cruelty, tyranny, and scandalous debauchery." It is unfortunate that the author does not add to his undeniable and praiseworthy ability in getting up interesting schoolbooks an adequate scholarship. In the present instance, he might easily have secured this result by associating with himself a specialist in the field of Roman history. From such a combination we might have obtained the ideal text-book. The present work is very far from it.

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